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Letter dated 16 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Security Council the present letter and the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 16 July 2008 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 16 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

16 July 2008

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation reported on the launch on 15 July of large-scale military exercises — Kavkaz-2008 — in the North Caucasus, in the immediate vicinity of the Georgian State border, involving approximately 8,000 servicemen and 700 pieces of military hardware. The military exercises will also involve units of the Pskov and Novorossisk divisions of air landing troops.

"Assessment of a joint response of military administrations against the background of a terrorist threat in the south of Russia" is declared to be the main goal of the exercises conducted in the North Caucasus.

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, "special peace enforcement operations" in the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflict zones will also be worked out during the exercises, while the Commander of the North Caucasian Military District, S. Makarov, is quoted as saying that "his troops are ready to assist peacekeepers".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia declares that the aforesaid statements can be viewed as a continuation of the aggressive policy the Russian Federation has been pursuing against Georgia in the recent period. None of the existing documents on conflict resolution gives Russian armed forces the authority to carry out any kind of activity on the territory of Georgia. Hence, the aforesaid statements by the Russian Defence Ministry and top military officials are nothing but a military intervention and a threat of aggression directed against a sovereign State.

The Russian Federation's aggressive policy against Georgia poses a threat to peace and stability in the Caucasus region as a whole. The Russian side should be well aware that, against such a background of developments, successively higher levels of tension in Chechnia, Ingushetia, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria and numerous armed clashes between local combatants and Russian law enforcement agencies may slide into increasing instability that, in our belief, must be far from serving the interests of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia urges the Russian side in the strongest terms to refrain from irresponsible statements and stop its aggressive policy against Georgia.